

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1080

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Gary R. Stidham on his selection as 2010 Hawkins County Teacher of the Year for Cherokee High School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Gary R. Stidham is one such estimable educator who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Gary R. Stidham has recently been selected 2010 Teacher of the Year for Cherokee High School by Hawkins County Schools, an honor most befitting his outstanding tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes the positive influence he has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, along with other distinguished Hawkins County teachers, Mr. Stidham was recently honored at the Hawkins County School System's Teacher of the Year Banquet; and

WHEREAS, at the gathering, Hawkins County Schools feted teachers selected as Teacher of the Year at their respective schools, with winners also selected and announced for three divisions: kindergarten through fourth grade, fifth through eighth grade, and ninth through twelfth grade; and

WHEREAS, each school within the system selected its own recipient, after which a committee from the Central Office staff evaluated the school winners, following standards established by the Tennessee Department of Education, in order to determine the three division Teachers of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stidham holds an Associate's degree in Electronics from Summit University of Louisiana in New Orleans and is currently enrolled in Coastline/Fort Hayes State University in the Bachelor General Studies to Master's Program with a concentration in teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, since retiring from the United States Navy in 2004, former Chief Petty Officer Stidham has served as a NJROTC Instructor at Cherokee High School, offering his exemplary leadership skills to his students both inside the classroom and beyond as coach for the color guard and the drill team; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stidham has immersed himself in service to his students and others not only through classroom instruction, but also through his work with the American Legion and through teaching Sail Academy for students in eastern Tennessee; he also helped with food drives for Shepherd's Corner Outreach, and he has served as an assistant Sunday School teacher; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Stidham was recognized with the Navy Commendation Medal in 2004 and was named in *Who's Who Among American Teachers* in 2006-2007; and

WHEREAS, Gary R. Stidham has earned the respect and admiration of his community through his meritorious service and his dedication to his students while exuding a tireless enthusiasm and a willingness to try new and innovative methods in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, Gary R. Stidham is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Gary R. Stidham epitomizes the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that that we honor and congratulate Gary R. Stidham on his selection as 2010 Hawkins County Teacher of the Year for Cherokee High School, commend his exceptional

service to the children of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.